REMARKS

Claims 9-16 remain in this application. Claim 9 has been amended. The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 9-16 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Specifically, the Examiner stated in the Office Action that the present application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters: Claim 9 is objected to because of certain informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's recommendations for amending independent claim 9 have been heeded such that the cited informalities associated with claim 9, as amended, have now been obviated.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 9 of the present application, as well as claims 10-16 which respectfully depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is further submitted that no fees are due in connection with this response at this time. If any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No.: 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket Number (0112740-196) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLO

BY

William E. Vaughan Reg. No. 39,056 P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4292

Dated: December 20, 2004